

MEETING MINUTES

Kentucky Association of Conservation Districts

September 20th, 2016

300 Sower Blvd. Room 216

In Attendance: Mr. David Rowlett, President; Mr. Allan Bryant, Secretary-Treasurer; Mr. Kevin Jeffries; Mr. Orville Bennett; Mr. Steve Coleman; Mr. Randy McCallon; Mr. Ted Jessup; Mr. Rodney Dick; and Mr. Linville Martin.

Also in Attendance: Ms. Kim Richardson, Director, DOC; Ms. Johnna McHugh, Asst. Director, DOC; Ms. Karen Woodrich, NRCS; Dr. Steve Higgins, UK; Mr. Jacob Bowman, FSA; Mr. Brent Burchett, Dept. of Ag; and Mr. Jeff Gravitt, DOC.

Quorum was met.

Meeting Called to Order - at 9:30am by KACD President David Rowlett.

KACD Minutes of the Last Meeting – May 12th, 2016 – Mr. Kevin Jeffries asked for a correction from NSCD to NACD. Mr. Rodney Dick made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Orville Bennett seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**

Treasurer's Report - Treasurer Allan Bryant presented the KACD Treasurer's Report with copies given. Mr. Kevin Jeffries made the motion to approve the report as presented. Motion seconded by Mr. Randy McCallon. **Motion carried.**

KACD Correspondence – There was no correspondence.

Mr. David Rowlett gave a health update on Mr. John Denton.

NACD Director's Report - Mr. Kevin Jeffries gave an update on SWCS meeting. Mr. Jeffries will be serving on the Farm Bill Task Force. A Farm Bill survey has been sent to all districts in the United States. This survey is to find out what districts are looking for in the next Farm Bill, so NACD will know the districts' priorities. NACD's website has been updated with new resources (nacdn.net).

Mr. Kevin Jeffries informed group that dues are required by the end of July. Total dues as of meeting are \$40,414.50. Mr. Steve Coleman asked for a list of which districts have paid dues, and a list was provided to all members. Mr. Jeffries discussed the auction item for the upcoming NACD convention. Motion to approve spending \$250 on an auction item was made by Mr. Kevin Jeffries and was seconded by Mr. Orville Bennett. **Motion carried.**

KACD Auxiliary Report – Unattended by Ava Adams. No report was given

Review of 2016 KACD Convention – Mr. David Rowlett asked for everyone's overall impression of the convention. Everyone was impressed with the luncheon. The tour went well even, with the area experiencing a flood at the time of the convention. The only criticism was the board would like to see more participation from the watershed districts.

2017 Legislative Reception – Mr. David Rowlett appointed a committee consisting of Mr. Allan Bryant, Mr. Ted Jessup and Mr. Kevin Jeffries to work with Ms. Kim Richardson to work on the 2017 Legislative Reception.

The NACD annual meeting is January 28th thru February 1st. Mr. Allan Bryant may attend the meeting alongside Mr. Kevin Jeffries and Mr. David Rowlett. Mr. Ted Jessup may attend as well. A discussion was held if any changes were needed for the expenses to be paid. The group decided to keep current paid expenditures the same as the previous years (transportation and hotel expenses). Motion to approve was made by Mr. Steve Coleman and was seconded by Mr. Allan Bryant. **Motion carried.**

The NACD SE Regional conference will have the same expenditures paid for as the NACD annual meeting. Motion to approve was made by Mr. Steve Coleman and was seconded by Mr. Ted Jessup. **Motion carried.**

2016 NACD Fly-In, Washington DC – No date has been set as of yet. KACD would like to take a spokesperson for every congressional district. The board will discuss this further at the November meeting.

Partnership Survey - Mr. David Rowlett spoke about adopting a program developed by Dr. Kendall Tyree, VASWCD Executive Director. This program will use a state wide survey as a instrument that captures both the collaboration levels overall at an organizational level environment, membership, process and structure, communication, purpose and resources, that measures the current perceived levels of each independent variable and its sub-factors. Mr. David Rowlett would like the committee to approve to continue to build a foundation going forward. Motion was made by Mr. Kevin Jeffries and was seconded by Mr. Steve Coleman. **Motion carried.**

Division of Conservation Report – Ms. Kim Richardson updated the board on SWCC's approval of adding a KACD Conference Call as 10 minute training for the incentive per diem. Also, the SWCC approved the resolution for all DIGS appeals to be brought before the commission.

- **Art and Writing Contest** – Ms. Johnna McHugh informed group that the Art and Writing Contest just kicked off and that Forestry is the overall theme.

Agency Comment

- **Natural Resources Conservation Service – Karen Woodrich, State Conservationist** - Ms. Karen Woodrich spoke on the current state of retirees and the long list of open positions that needed to be filled. The NRCS are working on backfilling vacancies, but with hiring coming out of Washington DC now it is a slower process. Chief Weller wants the NRCS to work with all partners to work on updating conservation planning and helping farmers identify resource concerns and document those concerns. This past year was the biggest year ever for EQIP, with \$16 million allocated to over 700 contracts. The new rollout for CSP will be in November. **Department for Natural Resources- Commissioner Allen Luttrell** – No report given.
- **Farm Service Agency – Jacob Bowman, USDA, and FSA** – Mr. Jacob Bowman reported that FSA is having the same budgetary and personnel issues as NRCS is having. He spoke on the new tighter deadlines they have experienced and how they are doing the best they can. Mr. Kevin Jeffries asked for FSA's input on their Farm Bill needs.
- **University of Kentucky – Dr. Steve Higgins** – Dr. Steve Higgins spoke about the Eden Shale Farm, and different types of solutions that they have implemented. He volunteered to discuss these solutions at the KACD convention next summer.
- **Kentucky Department of Agriculture** – No report given.
- **Division of Forestry – Bill Steele, Director**- No report given.
- **KACDE – Leslie Hacker** – No report given.

Ag Water Quality Authority – Mr. David Rowlett would like to step down from his position on the Ag Water Quality Authority. He currently represents KACD, but the KACD representative does not have to be on the KACD board. KACD needs to put 3 names forward for this position. Mr. Allan Bryant has volunteered to apply, but the board needs to come up with 2 other names for applicants. Also, Mr. Kevin Jeffries has stepped down from his position representing farming groups. There need to be 3 applicants for his position as well.

Partnership survey – Another discussion of the partnership survey occurred. The board decided to appoint a committee to work on this project. Mr. Steve Coleman will chair the committee, with Mr. Shane Wells and Mr. David Rowlett also serving.

Adjournment - A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Allan Bryant. Motion seconded by Mr. Linville Martin. **Motion carried,** meeting adjourned.

Next Board Meeting -November 15th at 9:30 at 300 Sower Boulevard